

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13
CA-01 /073 W

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R 172100Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5370

INFO DIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 2906

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA: PANAMA FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, PINS, PINT, SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF TERRORIST AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

MONTH OF MARCH 1978

NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

1. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: THIS REPORT GIVES A SUMMARY OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE AND TERRORIST ACTIVITIES THAT HAVE BEEN REPORTED TO US BY THE SECURITY FORCES DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH 1978.

2. MAR 3: PAMPHLETS WERE RECEIVED BY MAIL FROM BUENOS AIRES AT THE FORMOSA LABOR UNION, STATING: "WE KNOW THE DEFINITE TRIUMPH IS CLOSE.", SIGNED BY LABOR UNION OF THE MONTONERO-PERONIST-MOVEMENT.

- MAR 7: IN CAVERA, PROVINCE OF TUCUMAN, ERP SIGNS WERE PAINTED ON PUBLIC FIXTURES.

- ON THE SAME DATE, AT APPROXIMATELY 2 A.M., TWO EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WERE DETONATED IN FRONT OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNIST PARTY COMMITTEE AT AVENIDA ENTRE RIOS 1039, FEDERAL CAPITAL. SOURCES STATED THIS INCIDENT WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE SECURITY

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FORCES.

- MAR 8: AN ARMED MALE FORCED HIS WAY INTO THE HOME OF 1ST CPL. ANTONIO MARINO OF THE BS. AS. POLICE. THE INDIVIDUAL FIRED SEVERAL SHOTS INTO THE WALLS OF THE HOUSE. CPL. MARINO WAS NOT AT HOME AT THE TIME BUT HIS WIFE WAS. SHE WAS NOT INJURED.

- MAR 11: A POLICE GROUP ENGAGED IN A CONFRONTATION WITH

MEMBERS OF THE MONTONEROS. A NON-COMMISSIONED POLICE OFFICER WAS KILLED AND A SECTION LEADER OF THE MONTONEROS 25TH COLUMN WAS KILLED. THE POLITICAL SECRETARY, A FEMALE, ESCAPED. WEAPONS AND DOCUMENTS WERE CONFISCATED. SECURITY FORCES ALSO CONFISCATED A LIST OF 10-15 COMPANIES CONTAINING THE NAMES OF ARGENTINE BUSINESS EXECUTIVES DATING BACK TO 1972. HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO EVIDENCE THE TERRORISTS PLANNED ANY ATTACKS AGAINST THE LISTED COMPANIES OR THEIR EXECUTIVES. NOTE: SEE BS. AS. 2656, DATED 4-7-78)

- MAR 13: TWO ARMED TERRORISTS (A MALE AND FEMALE) PLANTED AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE IN THE BOSQUES STATION OF THE ROCA RR. THE EXPLOSION CAUSED SERIOUS MATERIAL DAMAGE AND INTERRUPTED SERVICES.

- ON THE SAME DATE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS DETONATED IN A VEHICLE PARKED IN FRONT OF A RESIDENCE AT OBISPO MALDONADO 1841, SAN VICENTE. THERE WERE NO CASUALTIES.

- MAR 14: IN THE CITY OF RESISTENCIA, A PUBLICATION WAS RECEIVED IN THE PRESIDENTS ROQUE SAENZ PENA CONCERNING THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE MONTONERO-PERONIST-MOVEMENT. THE PUBLICATION WAS MAILED FROM BS. AS. AND DATED JUNE '77.

- MAR 17: AT AVENIDA RIVADAVIA 9466, BS. AS., AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE EXPLODED, CAUSING DAMAGE TO THE ENTERPRISE CHESAB S.A.

- MAR 20: AT 11 P.M. IN PRECINCT 42, IN THE FEDERAL CAPITAL, OCCUPANTS IN A VEHICLE FIRED AT THE BANCO RURAL ARGENTINO
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ON EMILIO CASTRO ST. THERE WERE NO INJURIES AND THE INDIVIDUALS ESCAPED.

- ON THE SAME DATE, UNKNOWN INDIVIDUALS ATTACKED PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION BUSES OF LINE 179 AT SAN VICENTE, DAMAGING BUSES 32 AND 116. A NOTE WAS LATER FOUND IN WHICH THE MONTONEROS STATED THEY HAD INSTIGATED THE ATTACK.

- ON THE SAME DATE, POLICE AGENT EMILIO CLEMENTE GUZMAN REPORTED HE HAD BEEN ASSAULTED IN THE TOWN OF QUILMES AND HIS BROWING 9 MM. HAD BEEN STOLEN.

- MAR 20: FEDERAL POLICE ALERTED ALL PRECINCT VEHICLES THAT 3-4 MALES, DRESSED IN FATIGUES AND CARRYING HEAVY WEAPONS, HAD KIDNAPPED A MEMBER OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY FROM HIS RESIDENCE AT AYACUCHO 1935, FEDERAL CAPITAL. THE ASSAILANTS HAD ESCAPED IN A WHITE CARRY-ALL. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR, GENERAL HARGUINDEGUY, RECEIVED A DENUNCIA FROM THE RELATIVES OF MR. MARTIN CASA, AN OFFICER OF THE MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, RESIDING AT THE ABOVE MENTIONED ADDRESS. THE DENUNCIA STATED HE WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HIS RESIDENCE ON MARCH 20 AT 10:30 P.M. BY MEN DRESSED IN GREEN FATIGUE UNIFORMS, CARRYING LONG AND SHORT WEAPONS. HE WAS REMOVED IN A WHITE CARRY-ALL, DESTINATION UNKNOWN.

ON APRIL 4, MR. CASA APPEARED AT THE 17TH PRECINCT, ANNULING THE DENUNCIA AND DECLARING HE WAS IN PERFECT HEALTH AND THAT NOTHING HAD HAPPENED TO HIM. THE CASE WAS CLOSED.

- ON THE SAME DATE, DURING AN OPERATION CARRIED OUT BY ARMY AND POLICE SECURITY FORCES IN THE CEMETERY OF SANTA CRUZ, A PACKAGE WAS FOUND CONTAINING WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION, BELIEVED TO BELONG TO TERRORISTS.

- ON THE SAME DATE AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS DISCOVERED IN A RESIDENCE LOCATED AT PERU 130, BS. AS. IT IS BELIEVED THE RESIDENCE BELONGS TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE ARGENTINE WORLD SOCCER CUP.

- AN INSCRIPTION WAS FOUND IN THE ESTABLISHMENT CRISTALERIA LA CONSTANCIA, S.A. IN QUILMES, BS. AS. PROVINCE. THE
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INSCRIPTION WAS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNIST REVOLUTIONARY PARTY.

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 DODE-00 HA-05
IO-13 CA-01 /073 W

-----056082 181134Z /14

R 172100Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5371
INFO DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY PANAMA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 2906

FROM RSO TO SY AND ARA: PANAMA FOR RSS

- MAR. 22: AT 2100 HRS, ON SAN MARTIN 6607, BS. AS. PAMPHLETS WERE THROWN IN FRONT OF A CAR AGENCY CALLING FOR SUPPORT AND WORKERS POPULAR RESISTANCE IN SUPPORT OF THE ERP. THE PAMPHLETS CRITICIZED THE PRESENT GOVT AND

RECOMMENDED FORMATIONS OF GROUPS TO OPPOSE THE GOVT.

- ON THE SAME DATE AT ALVEAR 1847, NEAR THE ALVEAR PALACE HOTEL IN BS. AS., AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS DISCOVERED OUTSIDE THE MEDICUS ENTERPRISE. THE DEVICE WAS DETONATED BY THE BOMB SQUAD.
- ON THE SAME DATE, AT 1145 P.M., AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS DISCOVERED AT JURAMENTO 2345 IN FRONT OF THE CITY BANK. ERP PAMPHLETS WERE CONFISCATED WHICH CRITICIZED THE PRESENT GOVT.
- MAR 23: A MONTONERO DECLARATION WAS RECEIVED BY MAIL AT THE SANTA MARIA PARRISH IN QUAMINI. IT HAD BEEN MAILED FROM ITALY AND CONTAINED A MONTONERO DECLARATION DATED APRIL 1977.
- ON THE SAME DATE IT WAS REPORTED THAT IN MENDOZA STATEMENTS HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN THE RESTROOMS OF BUS TERMINALS IN THE CITY OF SAN LUIS, STATING "BEFORE THE WORLD CUP, A GENERAL STRIKE". THE MONTONEROS CLAIMED AUTHORSHIP.

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- ON THE PREVIOUS DAY IN LA PLATA, ON ROAD 36, COSTA SUD, A MALE BODY WAS FOUND WITH 3 FATAL BULLET WOUNDS. BESIDE THE BODY WERE MONTONERO PAMPHLETS MENTIONING THE TRIAL OF JUAN CARLOS DEJNI, FORMER SECRETARY OF THE PST (SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY) AND IDENTIFYING HIM AS A TRAITOR.
 - MAR 28: AN EXPLOSIVE DEVICE WAS DETONATED NEAR THE REALROAD TRACKS BETWEEN URIBURU AND ASCASUBI STS. IN BERNAL, BS. AS. PROVINCE. THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO THE RAILROAD TRACKS.
 - MAR 27: HEAVILY ARMED PERSONS KIDNAPPED FEDERAL POLICE SGT RICARDO ROBATO DIVIENRO, ASSIGNED TO THE CUSTODIAS AND SERVICIOS ADICIONALES. HE WAS KIDNAPPED FROM HIS HOME AT CERRITO 702 IN QUILMES, BS. AS. PROVINCE.
 - MAR 28: DELEGATIONS OF THE UOCRA (CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' UNION OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARGENTINA) IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY RECEIVED PROPAGANDA DOCUMENTS FROM MONTONEROS IN ARGENTINA AND ABROAD.
 - ON THE SAME DATE, ARMED TERRORISTS FIRED AT THE HOME OF NAVY CAPT. JUAN ENRIQUE SALVA AND CARLOS MARIA STORNI, A LAWYER, LOCATED AT RUSSELL 441 AND 445 RESPECTIVELY. THE INDIVIDUALS DISTRIBUTED MONTONERO PAMPHLETS AND ESCAPED THE SCENE.
 - ON THE SAME DATE, IN RESISTENCIA, ROBERTO AQUINO, TELEPHONE COMPANY EMPLOYEE, AND MISS LETICIA BOUSQUET, ARCHITECTURE STUDENT, RECEIVED BY MAIL MONTONERO LITERATURE, ENTITLED MOVEMENT OF THE SUPERIOR COUNCIL OF THE MONTONERO PERONIST MOVEMENT. THE LITERATURE HAD BEEN MAILED FROM BS. AS.
- END CONFIDENTIAL.

3. BEGIN SECRET: RSO COMMENT: DURING MARCH THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES. INCREASES ARE

NORMAL AROUND DATES THAT ARE OF PARTICULARLY SIGNIFICANCE
TO TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS. IN THIS CASE, MARCH 24 IS
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THE SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE TAKEOVER BY THE MILITARY
JUNTA AND IS A SIGNIFICANT DATE FOR TERRORISTS. DURING
MARCH, THERE WAS A THREATENED RAILROAD STRIKE AND THE
MONTONEROS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THIS TO AGITATE WITH UNIONS
AND TO PLANT EXPLOSIVE DEVICES ON RAILROAD TRACKS. ALSO,
SECURITY FORCES EXPECT AN INCREASE IN TERRORIST ACTIVITIES
AS THE WORLD CUP APPROACHES.

4. THE INCREASED INCIDENTS DURING THIS MONTH DO NOT
REFLECT AN INCREASE IN OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY. INFORMA-
TION PROVIDED BY THE SECURITY SERVICES REFLECTS PRESENT
MONTONERO TERRORIST STRENGTH AT 450-500 COMBATANTS, OF
WHICH 150 ARE OUTSIDE OF ARGENTINA. MONTONEROS IN ARGEN-
TINA ARE SUPPORTED BY APPROXIMATELY 400 SYMPATHIZERS WHO
PROVIDE ACTIVE SUPPORT. PRT-ERP STRENGTH IN-COUNTRY IS
ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY 200-275, WITH AN ADDITIONAL
75 OUT-OF-COUNTRY, SOME OF WHOM ARE ASSIGNED TO SPECIAL
TRAINING SCHOOLS IN ALGERIA. THEY ARE SUPPORTED BY LESS
THAN 200 COLLABORATORS IN-COUNTRY. OF THE 200 ERP MEMBERS
IN-COUNTRY, SECURITY SERVICES ESTIMATE THAT LESS THAN
20 ARE COMBAT TROOPS; THE REST ARE INVOLVED IN LOW-LEVEL
PROPAGANDA AND SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES. SECURITY SOURCES
ARE CONVINCED THAT THE ERP ARE NOT PREPARING COMBAT CADRE.
HOWEVER, THEY BELIEVE - ON THE BASIS OF INFORMATION RE-
CENTLY OBTAINED - THAT THE MONTONEROS HAVE TWO SPECIAL
COMBAT GROUPS IN THE COUNTRY. THESE GROUPS ARE OF 4 TO
FIVE MEN EACH, AND HAVE BEEN TRAINED ABROAD. THEY ARE
CONSIDERED TO BE HIGH CALIBRE, EXTREMELY DANGEROUS
AND THE BEST CADRE THE MONTONEROS HAVE IN
ARGENTINA. THEY ARE NOT DIRECTLY CONNECTED WITH THE
NATIONAL ORGANIZATION AND TAKE THEIR ORDERS AND DIRECTIONS
FROM ABROAD. SOURCE STATED THAT INTELLIGENCE SERVICES
ARE EXTREMELY ANXIOUS TO APPREHEND THIS GROUP PRIOR TO
THE WORLD CUP.

5. OTHER SECURITY SOURCES STATE TERRORISTS ARE PREPARING
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FOR A SPECTACULAR DURING THE WORLD CUP. THEIR ACTIVITIES
WILL BE DIRECTED AT ATTRACTING WORLD-WIDE PUBLICITY,
POSSIBLY BY DESTROYING THE COLOR TV BROADCASTING STATION
OR INTERFERING WITH SATELLITE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, OR

ANY OTHER INCIDENT TO FOCUS WORLD-WIDE ATTENTION ON ARGENTINA. IN THIS REGARD, THERE HAS BEEN A DEFINITE CHANGE IN THE MONTONERO TACTICS. THEY ARE NOW ANXIOUS TO MAKE THEIR ACTIVITIES APPEAR TO BE SPONTANEOUS ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE GOVT BY A DISENCHANTED PUBLIC, NOT BY MONTONEOR TERRORISTS. SOURCE ALSO BELIEVED THAT THE MONTONEROS ARE CONCENTRATING ON THE ASSASSINATION OF PRINCIPAL GOVT FIGURES AND PLAN TO KILL AT LEAST FOUR PRIOR TO WORLD CUP ACTIVITIES. ALL INTELLIGENCE SOURCES FEEL THE MONTONEROS WILL NOT INITIATE ANY ACTION THAT WOULD BE HARMFUL TO THE ARGENTINE SOCCER PUBLIC OR OVERTLY INTERFERE WITH THE SOCCER MATCHES. SUCH ACTIVITIES WOULD BE POLITICALLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. END SECRET CASTRO

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